

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 CU-02 IO-13 SSO-00
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O R 151358Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2297
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL IBADAN

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DEPARTMENT PASS USAID, DHEW, DOL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ELAB, OEXC, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS AND U.S. ASSISTANCE

REFS: (A) LAGOS 6940, (B) STATE 154136, (C) LAGOS 7674

1. SUMMARY. MISSION'S MANPOWER TEAM HAD GOOD MEETING WITH NIGERIAN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON JULY 14 WHICH PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING NIGERIAN THINKING ON THE PROCESSING OF THEIR CANDIDATES, THE SELECTION OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING CATEGORIES, AND THE PROPOSED OPERATION OF THE AID PROCESSING TEAM WHICH WILL ARRIVE HERE AT BEGINNING OF AUGUST. NIGERIANS ARE NOW AIMING TO COME UP WITH 2,000 REPEAT 2,000 APPLICANTS FOR SEPTEMBER PLACEMENT. JULY 14 MEETING TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF STATE 163498 AND 163499 WHICH ARE BEING ANSWERED BY SEPTEL. DEPARTMENT/AID IS REQUESTED TO CABLE AMERICAN EQUIVALENTS OF THE ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS CITED AT END OF PARA 3 OF REF (A). IN ADDITION, WE NEED ASAP A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF CATALOGS FOR JUNIOR COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL

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INSTITUTIONS WHICH OFFER COURSES APPROPRIATE TO THIS PROGRAM.
END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION AD HOC MANPOWER TEAM MET AGAIN FOR 2 AND ONE HALF HOURS JULY 14 WITH NIGERIAN TECHNICAL MANPOWER COMMITTEE. PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WAS TO EXPLORE IN GREATER DETAIL AND WITH MORE SPECIFICITY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MID-LEVEL MANPOWER

TRAINING PROGRAM.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT FMG IS AIMING FOR AS MANY AS TWO THOUSAND NOMINEES FOR SEPTEMBER PLACEMENT. WHILE WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THEY CAN OFFER THAT MANY CANDIDATES THAT SOON, DEPARTMENT AND COOPERATING AGENCIES SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY. FMG INTENDS PRESENT 110 CANDIDATES FROM EACH OF 19 STATES, WHICH WILL SURELY PRODUCE MORE THAN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED 100-500 CANDIDATES.

4. SELECTION PROCESS AS OUTLINED BY NIGERIAN COMMITTEE HAS LOCAL COMMITTEES RECEIVE APPLICATIONS, VERIFY ACCURACY OF CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS REGARDING SCHOOLING, PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION, PERFORM INITIAL ROUGH SCREENING, AND PASS ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES ON TO STATE LEVEL COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD ALSO SCREEN CANDIDATES AND RECOMMEND THEM FOR A TRAINING FIELD AND CATEGORY. THOSE APPLICATIONS EMERGING FROM THIS PROCESS WILL THEN BE PRESENTED TO FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL ALSO CHECK SUITABILITY OF EACH APPLICANT AND BALANCE OF TRAINEES BETWEEN FIELDS BEFORE PRESENTING NOMINATIONS TO US MISSION. THIS PROCESS WILL IN FACT BE SHORTENED, HOWEVER, FOR FIRST TRANCHE OF SEPTEMBER PARTICIPANTS, AS DESCRIBED LATER IN PARA 8.

5. WE WERE UNABLE IN OUR MEETING TO OBTAIN A SHARPER DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES A AND B AS OUTLINED AT END OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARA 3 REF A. DEPARTMENT/AID IS URGENTLY REQUESTED TO PROVIDE MISSION ASAP WITH INFORMATION ON AMERICAN EQUIVALENTS OF THESE CATEGORIES.

6. NIGERIANS ARE PLANNING FOR EACH APPLICANT TO INDICATE ON HIS APPLICATION FORM 3 PREFERENCES AMONG THOSE BROAD TRAINING FIELDS LISTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL A. FMG WILL TAKE THESE PREFERENCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STATE GOVERNMENTS INTO ACCOUNT AND THEN INDICATE TO USG FOR EACH APPLICANT ITS DECISION REGARDING THE APPROPRIATE BROAD TRAINING FIELD. SINCE THE SEPTEMBER PLACEMENTS WILL REPRESENT ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE TOTAL PROGRAM CONTEMPLATED, THE NIGERIANS DO NOT CONSIDER A PROPORTIONAL DISPERSION OF TRAINEES AMONG ALL TRAINING FIELDS NECESSARY. AT LEAST FOR THE SEPTEMBER PLACEMENTS, THE FMG IS PREPARED TO LEAVE ANDY SELECTION OF SPECIALIZATION WITHIN THE BROAD TRAINING FIELDS TO THE US TRAINING INSTITUTION IN CONSULTATION WITH THE TRAINEE. WE BELIEVE THIS DECISION IS INFLUENCED BY THE URGENCY TO COMMENCE THE PROGRAM AS WELL AS THE NIGERIANS' LACK OF EXPERIENCE WITH A PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE. HOWEVER, THE

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FMG DEFINITELY DOES NOT WANT STATESIDE CHANGES TO BE
MADE WITH REGARD TO EITHER AN APPLICANT'S BROAD TRAINING FIELD
OR THE INSTITUTION HE IS ATTENDING WITHOUT ITS APPROVAL. FMG
WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT ALL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS
CHOSEN WILL BE ACCREDITED ONES. AT LEAST FOR INITIAL GROUP,
WHAT WE ARE DEALING WITH IS
A GENERAL MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME, RATHER THAN JOB-SPECIFIC PROJECT-ORIENTED TRAINING.

7. NIGERIANS ARE MOST INTERESTED IN DETERMINING THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY IN TWO-YEAR COLLEGE PROGRAMS LEADING TO
ASSOCIATE DEGREE. MISSION TEAM WAS UNABLE PROVIDE THIS
INFORMATION EXCEPT IN GENERALITIES. WE PROMISED NIGERIANS THAT
WE WILL REQUEST REPRESENTATIVE
SAMPLE OF CATALOGS FOR BOTH
TWO-YEAR COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WHICH WILL DES-
CRIBE NOT ONLY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS BUT CONTENTS OF COURSES.

8. IN DISCUSSION OF FUNCTIONS WHICH WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE
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AID PROCESSING TEAM WHICH SHORTLY COMES TO NIGERIA, THE NIGERIAN

COMMITTEE PROPOSED THAT THE PROCESSING TEAM OPERATE IN LAGOS, IBADAN, KADUNA AND ENUGU. FMG WILL BRING CANDIDATES FROM ALL 19 STATES TO THESE CENTRAL LOCATIONS. THEY ANTICIPATE THAT THE TEAM WOULD EVALUATE ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND WOULD ALSO HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO ADMINISTER NECESSARY LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION TESTS.

9. FYI. QUESTION OF LANGUAGE COMPETENCE HAS BEEN A SENSITIVE POINT IN DISCUSSIONS SINCE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN NIGERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLISH AND NIGERIANS SAY THAT ONE OF REASONS THEY WANT TO SEND SO MANY APPLICANTS TO US IS THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SPEAK ENGLISH. THE NIGEREAN COMMITTEE PREDICTABLY SHOWED SOME CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECT OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION TESTS, BUT NEVERTHELESS ACCEPTED CONCEPT AFTER MISSION TEAM EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THAT THESE TESTS ARE REQUIRED OF ALL NON-U.S. CANDIDATES IN ALL EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS.

10. IN DISCUSSING FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, NIGERIAN COMMITTEE PROPOSED THAT \$8,500 SHOULD BE USED AS A BASIS FOR THE 10 PER CENT DEPOSIT BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE MEDIAN OF THE \$7,000-\$10,000 ROUGH ESTIMATE WHICH WE ORIGINALLY PROVIDED THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 4.B. OF STATE 154136. MISSION TEAM, WHICH HAD NOT YET RECEIVED STATE 163499, SAID THAT IT WOULD FORWARD THIS PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON.

1. WE ARE RESPONDING BY SEPTELS TO STATE 163498 AND 163499.EASUM

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